

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the congregation of Christ the King Catholic Church upon its seventy-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Christ the King of Nashville, the members of which recently celebrated the church's seventy-fifth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, officially established in 1937, Christ the King Catholic Church was initiated by the Most Reverend William L. Adrian, Bishop of Nashville, to serve the needs of the rapidly growing Catholic population in the southwestern section of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, property at 3001 Belmont Boulevard was purchased by Bishop Adrian and the Diocese of Nashville for the new parish and the first Mass was celebrated on July 25, 1937, in the temporary chapel set up in the brick home on the property. Father Joseph E. Leppert was installed as the first pastor; and

WHEREAS, the brick house on the property would serve as the chapel, school, parish house, recreation hall, and community center until a school was built and opened on September 3, 1946, which resulted in the brick house being renovated as a residence for the pastor; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, Monsignor Thomas P. Duffy was appointed as the second pastor of Christ the King Church and, during his tenure, a junior high wing was added to the school in

1955, the old brick house was razed, and the cornerstone for a new church was laid on August 15, 1956; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Monsignor Daniel Shea Richardson succeeded Monsignor Duffy to become the third pastor of Christ the King. Under his leadership the school board hired its first lay principal, instituted an after-school care program, and later initiated a full-day kindergarten program; and

WHEREAS, Father James K. Mallet was appointed as the fourth pastor of Christ the King Church in 1987 and his efforts would include a capital project and fund-raising campaign to improve the church facilities and school campus with a new parish center and school renovations dedicated on November 21, 1999; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2007, the Most Reverend David R. Choby, Bishop of Nashville, appointed Father Dexter Sutton Brewer as the fifth pastor of Christ the King. He has since led the parish in another building campaign that saw the construction of a new state-of-the-art gym and stage, new classrooms, and multiple resource and parish meeting rooms; and

WHEREAS, today a vibrant parish of over 1,100 families, Christ the King Catholic Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional and historic congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to the good people of their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of Christ the King Catholic Church, thank the good people of this parish for their notable service to the Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.